U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
IONE MANZANITA
Arctostaphylos myrtifolia

CLASSIFICATION: Threatened
Federal Register 64:28403; 05/26/1999
ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr3399.pdf

CRITICAL HABITAT: NOT DESIGNATED

RECOVERY PLAN: NONE

5-YEAR REVIEW - INITIATED
Federal Register 73:11945; 3/5/2008

DESCRIPTION
Ione manzanita is an evergreen shrub of the heath family (Ericaceae). Reaching a height of generally less than about 1.2 meter (4 feet), plants appear low and spreading. The bark is red, smooth, and waxy. Olive green, narrowly elliptic leaves are 5-15 mm (0.2 to 0.6 inch) long.

White or pinkish urn-shaped flowers appear from January to February. The fruit is more or less cylindrical.

Ione manzanita can be distinguished from other species in the same genus by its smaller stature and the color of its leaves. Some manzanita species have basal burls but this one does not. See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for a detailed description of the species.

DISTRIBUTION
Ione manzanita may occur in about 100 individual stands, which cover a total of about 405 hectares (1,000 acres). It occurs primarily on outcrops of the Ione Formation within an area of about 35 square miles in Amador County. In addition, a few disjunct populations occur in Calaveras County.

Ione manzanita is the dominant and characteristic species of Ione chaparral, where it occurs in pure stands. The Ione chaparral plant community occurs only on very acidic, nutrient-poor, coarse soils, and is comprised of low-growing, heath-like shrubs and scattered herbs. Ione manzanita also occurs in transitional zones with surrounding taller chaparral types, but it does not persist if it is shaded. The populations range in elevation from 60-580 meters (190 to 1,900 feet), with the largest populations occurring at elevations between 90 and 275 meters (295 and 900 feet).

THREATS

Mining, fungal infection, clearing of vegetation for agriculture and fire protection, habitat fragmentation, residential and commercial development, changes in fire frequency, and ongoing erosion threaten various populations of this plant. The species depends almost entirely on fire to promote seed germination.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gankin, R., and Major, J. 1964. Arctostaphylos myrtifolia, its biology and relationship to the problem of endemism. Ecology 45:792.

Swiecki, T.J., and Bernhardt, E.A. 2003. Diseases threaten the survival of Ione manzanita (Arctostaphylos myrtifolia). Vacaville, CA.

Swiecki, T.J., and Garbelotto, M. 2005. Distribution of Phytophthora cinnamomi within the range of Ione manzanita (Arctostaphylos myrtifolia) http://phytosphere.com/publications/Pcinn_Amyrt_2005.htm. Phytoshpere.com.

General Information about California Plants,
www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

Credits: Jeremiah Karuzas, USFWS. Larger image at
www.fws.gov/sacramento/images/Ione_manzanita_J_Karuzas_FWS.jpg

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Last updated July 22, 2009